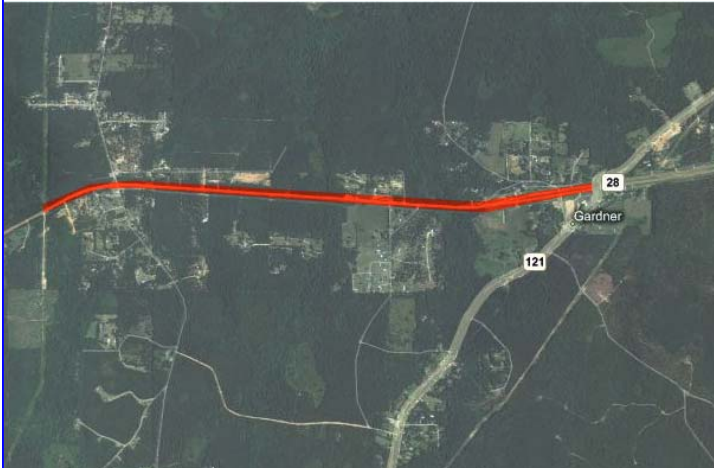


AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

LOUISIANA'S TRANSPORTATION STIMULUS

LA 28 (VERNON PARISH LINE TO LA 121)



The \$36 million upgrade of LA 28 from two-lanes to a four-lane divided highway with full reconstruction of the existing travel lanes will improve traffic flow in Central Louisiana as well as enhance the readiness of our armed forces at Fort Polk.

Notable Project Facts

- Can be authorized for construction in 120 days
- The project will require approximately \$ 3 million in ARRA funding with the balance of the funding coming from a combination of other Federal and State sources.
- The project will facilitate the rapid deployment of an enhanced brigade stationed at Fort Polk anywhere in the world via Alexandria International Airport.
- The project will provide a much-needed four-lane highway serving Central Louisiana for east-west mobility

Why do we need this?

The upgrading of the LA 28 corridor has been identified by the US Department of Defense as a major concern in its mission for Fort Polk as a **Power Projection Platform**. This mission is to have the ability to deploy one or more high priority active component brigades or larger and/or to mobilize and deploy high priority Army reserve component units. While two new lanes are being added, funding was not available to upgrade the existing two lanes. This investment will allow completion of the upgrade and provide more benefit to the investments already made. Without the ARRA funding, the existing two lanes will not be upgraded in the near future due to inadequate funding from the regular Federal and State Highway Programs.

A solid investment...

The Federal Government and the State of Louisiana have invested over \$100 million in upgrading the LA 28 corridor from two lanes to four lanes. The completion of this corridor greatly benefits Fort Polk in the movement of military personnel and equipment, and provides a major east-west corridor in central Louisiana. Having good infrastructure in and around Fort Polk increases the value of the Fort to the nation, which is critical in the event future base closures are considered. As noted above, this investment will build on the investments already made.

Project Selection for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

La DOTD, in accordance with the parameters set forth by President Barack Obama's economic stimulus, has identified projects which are "shovel ready" and can be let to construction in a very short timeframe. 50% of the ARRA funding must be obligated within 120 days of apportionment of the funds. Failure to obligate this funding within the prescribed time will result in reallocation of the balance of funds to other States.

